

REMARKS

By the above actions, the specification and claim 2 have been amended. In view of this action and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

At the outset, the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 7-16 has been noted with appreciation. However, since parent claim 1 is considered to be equally patentable for the reasons noted below, no action is being taken at this time to place these claims in independent form.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite, the Examiner indicating that clarification of what is meant by stamping is required. As a result, claim 2 has been amended to remove the term "stamped" with the term "pressed" being substituted therefore (support for this change can be found in paragraph [0038] on page 8 of the specification). With this change, claim 2 should be found clear and definite and the rejection thereof under § 112 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the Bartosz et al. patent when viewed in combination the Bartosz German Patent DE 195 28 678 (hereafter, DE '678) and the Wright et al. patent. This rejection is considered to be inappropriate for the following reasons.

The invention relates to an electrical unit comprising a proximity switch and a cable terminal part. The proximity switch has a housing and an insulation part with terminal elements running through the insulation part. The cable terminal part comprises a cable and a connecting part for connection of the cable terminal part with the proximity switch. In order to provide an electrical unit which meets the highest demand for tightness and strength, the cable terminal part comprising a cap, which surrounds at least the connecting part. By providing the cap, the cable terminal part can be attached to the proximity switch via the cap. Therefore, the cap serves, not merely as a cover, but also functions to connect the cable terminal part to the housing of the proximity switch in a very tight and high strength manner.

The applied Bartosz et al. patent corresponds to the German patent DE 44 19 23 mentioned on page 1 of the present patent application (which the specification has been amended above to reflect) and the DE '678 reference is also mentioned on page 1 of the present patent application. The cable connections of these references have a built-in plug and a proximity switch with a built-in plug (see, for example, Fig. 9 of DE '678). The known plug 1 (DE '678) comprises a housing 2 and an insulation part 6 with contact pins 4. This

plug can be connected only with a cable having a corresponding connector with sockets, which correspond to the contact pins 3. In Fig. 1 of DE '678, the right part of the figure is the part of the plug, which is mounted in the housing (as can also be seen from Fig. 9) while the left part shows the side of the plug which must be connected with a cable terminal part. This is comparable to the construction shown in Fig. 3 of the Bartosz et al. patent. Therefore, neither the Bartosz et al. patent nor DE '678 discloses a cable electrical unit having socket type terminals for receiving a cable.

The Wright patent discloses a shielded terminal connector that eliminates EMI leakage from coaxial cables in which a resilient bushing of a conductive material is inserted between exposed shield portions of the coaxial cable and the interior surface of a backshell housing, the later being compressed on a connector housing for the cable. One side of the backshell housing 32, 50 is fixed to connector housing 34, 52, while the other side is fixed to a cable. If the connector described by Wright were to be used for the connection of a cable to a proximity switch, the backshell housing (outer shell) would be at the side of the cable terminal part facing away from the proximity switch. Therefore, the cable terminal part will **not** be attached to the proximity switch, via the backshell housing. The backshell housing of the Wright patent **is not and cannot** be used to connect a cable terminal part to a housing of the proximity switch, and therefore, the backshell housing known from the Wright patent cannot be compared with the cap claimed in the present application.

Therefore, there simply is no reason, motivation or suggestion in the Wright patent or the Bartosz et al. patent to create an electrical unit comprising a proximity switch and a cable terminal part, wherein the cable terminal part comprises a cap which surrounds at least the connecting part and which is attached to an outside surface of the proximity switch. Therefore, since the prior art references do not teach an electrical unit as claimed in which a separate "connecting part" is surrounded by a cap "is attached to an outside surface of the proximity switch," the claimed invention cannot be properly said to have been rendered obvious any appropriate combination of the Bartosz et al., DE '978 and Wright disclosures. Accordingly, the § 103 rejection based on these references should be withdrawn and such action is hereby requested.

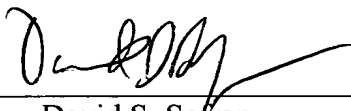
Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the above mentioned combination of the Bartosz et al. patent, DE '678 and the Wright et al. references when viewed further in combination of the disclosure of the Hill patent. However, since the

Hill patent has only been relied upon by the Examiner for its showing of a tapered outer casing, and since the Hill patent cannot in any way make up for the shortcomings of the Bartosz et al. patent, DE '678 and the Wright et al. references relative to the subject matter of the other rejected claims, this rejection is requested to be withdrawn for the same reasons noted above with respect to the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-6.

The prior art that has been cited, but not applied by the Examiner has been taken into consideration during formulation of this response. However, since this art was not considered by the Examiner to be of sufficient relevance to apply against any of the claims, no detailed comments thereon are believed to be warranted at this time.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
David S. Safran  
Registration No. 27,997

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20004

Telephone: (703) 827-8094